

TOC H JOURNAL

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The Editor accepts no responsibility for statements made or opinions expressed by authors of articles or in speeches at meetings.

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A NEW PILGRIMS' PROGRESS—IV.

On Board Train for Winnipeg,

17-4-25.

MANCHESTER and the Porch Room were child's play to the life which Pat and I have been leading since my last report. *Fytte 2* was written in New York, and in none too good a humour. When you have asked seven citizens on the Subway to help you to your destination, and five of them can't speak English, and the other two don't know, life tends somewhat to sag. Pat, on the other hand, revelled in the place, after the manner of the artist who summed up New York to Rupert Brooke in the apothegm: "It's hell, but it's fine." For myself, I won't go there again, if I can help it, until Pryor Grant has Mark I, U.S.A., ready for me to shelter in. In point of fact, there is good reason to hope for this House being established by early in 1926. Pryor is to become our New York Padre this very autumn, and will begin by living on the top floor of a Boys' Club on 61st Street, and building bravely thence, as Sawbones did at Leicester. Good camping to him!

Bishop Brent has promised powerful aid towards a House, and the need of it in New York is beyond dispute. A City almost as large as London, but with less than 200,000 family homes, needs housing for its youngsters desperately. I saw some lodgings on Staten Island which I shan't forget in a hurry, and even they were far too expensive for the man (a member of Toc H), who took me with him on his search. There is thus no danger of competition with the excellent Y.M.C.A. in so vast a field.

From New York we made our way to Philadelphia and Baltimore, and (for an hour or so) to Washington, the Northern approach to which is as unsightly as its capitol is noble. We had a peep at Princeton, and found Yale visiting them also for the delirious purposes of ice-hockey. The game was so intoxicating (even to me) that I don't remember where we went next. But I fancy that I must have returned to New York. (Pat is at present 1,000 miles away from me, just leaving Toronto as I am nearing Winnipeg; otherwise he would refer to his log forthwith, and tell me where we were and exactly what it cost us to remain alive, day after day).

Anyhow, early in March we tottered up into New England, which shares my

caveat concerning New York, and sums up the Far West as "a sunny place for shady people." In New England, you are back among a mature intelligentsia. They have books and read them; they play with words deliciously, and know all about "Shakespeare and the musical glasses"; they drink tea almost every afternoon, in pious memory of a tiff about taxation which tore the white world asunder. They brood upon this issue continually. Some say "the fault was yours," and take you to Valley Forge to prove it. But they do it without vindictiveness, and some few without conviction. Perhaps it will prove to be better for our mutual service to the world at large, that we should henceforth be free yoke-fellows. Separation regretted on both sides is in spirit a union far more happy than a separatist reaction which chafes against a legal link.

But what about Toc H all this time? Your emissaries have not been idle. Sometimes we have, between the two of us, addressed ten meetings a day. With what results? You must be patient for the upshot. We were sent to sow, and cannot ask to reap as well so hastily. Toc H is not so much mere mustard and cress; and America must begin it in its own way, not necessarily in ours. We have good reason to think that the seed will grow without fail; in three or four New England places a small patch of it together, and elsewhere in ones and twos, who will not long be content with isolation. As I can post this before Pat overtakes me, I can say quite freely that his visits to the New England schools made spiritual history for many young Americans.

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I add a deposition called *Some Better Thing*, which shows that the first Conference of Toc H at Philadelphia was not concerned with trivialities. It owes some phrases (via P.B.C.) to Dr. Maltby; but the spirit of the statement is native to New England, and the atmosphere of its acceptance sober with a quiet purpose running deep.

TUBBY.

"Some Better Thing"

"We who attest this statement, first made at Philadelphia on April 8, 1925, are a small body of younger men, and women, of American birth and upbringing. To-night, after much discussion, and even now beset with a full measure of that hesitance with which so small a number must approach so great a task, we stand and stand together. Our one deliberate confidence is in the Holy Spirit, who disdains not small beginnings, and derides not human weaknesses.

We know the road is there; not that we claim to see in any closeness or clarity of outlook the means and methods of proceeding. But when God calls, His spirit also breathes; and we would, in this cause, be fools rather than cowards. So on the very eve of that great night whereon He girded Himself and knelt to cleanse the feet of His Disciples, we (in the spirit and example of that act) would learn the life of service.

To us the Christian Faith possesses an essential beauty, wholeness and simplicity. The crux is daily to proceed upon it with holiness and good humour; and so in our working week-day lives to be more bold about God's business, His Drummers in the Fair of Vanity.

Here—where we are—we must begin, wherever we may end. Our staff be the spirit of self-sacrifice, faithfully entertained; our rod a rule of life and conversation, not indeed made statutory in some stone code, but powerful because pervading. Such witness as we picture, coming not from the older folk, but from men and women in the younger prime of life, would be

a formidable thing for those who prophesy without dismay the downfall of religion. Such prophets have our pity ; for in our view religion is the most vulnerable and the least destructible of all things. Its real enemies are many ; and we unite together to declare war against them. They are such as these, class prejudice and social hatred ; ill-will, and ignorant indifference to suffering ; the easy optimism of the insect on the twig over its brother in the dust.

We therefore find ourselves corporately concerned (1) To check in our own lives and in the lives of others the loud-voiced folly which saps the strength of purpose in a people. To do so not by force, save by the force of such example as we may set or such opinion as we may influence, towards a way of life more happy and more helpful.

(2) To eschew for our own lives and homes the glamour of mere gaiety, and the idolatry of idleness ; cultivating rather that true gaiety and inward joy which decks all life lived well ; as in the old homes of our fathers, where love and duty dwelt together.

(3) To seek all ways of understanding which may help to span the cleavages which imperil our social order ; to love beyond the circle of our equals ; and when we give, to give ourselves no less.

(4) In short, to spread the Gospel without preaching it."

(This statement was endorsed by a Conference of thirty Americans deeply concerned with the task of Toc H in U.S.A.)

Sidelights on the Tour

"Loving salutations to Council. WINNIPEG : Council also on Saturday. Situation far better and all things work together for good. NEW YORK : When Grant begins there whole time September, Bishop Brent promises ten thousand dollars for investment in House. TORONTO : Deficit raised locally by members and hostellers and strategic house acquired for prompt occupation, with Broughall as resident padre. Toronto finances now satisfactory ; three thousand dollars paid towards purchase of new House and padre's salary for a year. MONTREAL : Situation brightening and good hopes of real start there with padre and memorial House in autumn.—CLAYTON."

So ran the cable dispatched from Toronto on April 16 by our Pilgrims to the Central Council, meeting in London two days later*. Peter Monie's comment, after Grantibus had read the cable to the Council, was this :—" I think you all must have realised that though the cable from Tubby is very cheerful, there is more behind it than appears on the surface. It is perfectly true that Tubby and Pat, since they started, have not in the least been having a joy ride. They have gone through a very difficult time, and have been greatly discouraged. On the other hand it is perfectly clear that they have gone on from discouragement to the preaching of a very real mission, especially in New England. In a letter which Tubby sent me he said that the one thing that helped him above all else in the difficult time he and Pat were going through, was the knowledge that people in Toc H were praying for them. I am perfectly certain that the real meaning of the message is, that the tour is going to be a success, not in the way we hoped (it is not going to help us financially ; it will very probably put us in difficulties), but on the deeper side of things. There is no doubt that Pat and Tubby are preaching a very real mission, and they would wish us to go on praying for them that, in spite of all discouragement, they persevere." And so the Council adjourned to the Upper Room at Mark I, and before the old Carpenter's Bench remembered Tubby and Pat, not forgetting to name with them that other imperial Pilgrim on board H.M.S. *Repulse*.

It would be difficult to compress more news into so few words as these from Toronto, but a Transatlantic cable is not an easy medium for the feelings of the heart. We do not yet know all that has happened in New York, Winnipeg, Toronto and Montreal. In each place our

* For the Council's reply, see p. 138.

Pilgrims have been faced with peculiar difficulties, more than once with sharp crisis, and in each place they have had "to think fairly" and "to build bravely" in order to win through. Further details of the problems encountered and notes on decisive steps, taken or proposed, are coming across bit by bit, and the Central Executive, which is behind the Pilgrims all the way, will have to consider many points with great faith as well as great care. And, after all, though the meaning of some events of the World-Tour may baffle us all for a time, there is not the least cause to be downhearted. "The course of true love never did run smooth"—and this is an affair of love (if not quite in the sense the poet intended) busy in the cause of conquering hate. Only if the tour had been a "walk-over" from the outset should we have cause for misgiving about the depth of its foundations.

Until more of the story is before us we must not even try to read between the lines. A good many letters out of Tubby's huge correspondence on the other side, have found their way to H.Q. They make a truly random collection, varying from a scribbled telephone message inviting him to tea (and containing incidentally an address to which the JOURNAL has now been sent) to long letters from new friends. Out of this haphazard material (for much of the best doubtless remains on the other side of the world) we can at least catch a *sidelight*, here and there, on the spirit in which the work goes forward.

LINKS WITH THE PAST.

First of all there are a few links with the Old House. This from an ex-corporal, now a hosier at Roxbury, Mass. "The news of your coming to Boston carried my memory back to the days of the latter end of 1916, when our unit, the 6th London Field Ambulance, struggled out of the welter of the Somme and opened a dressing station near the Casualty Clearing Stations at Remy. Of course all roads led to Poperinghe, and I shall never forget your polite request at Talbot House not to scrounge the books. I laughed then and I have laughed since, for I was a pure and unadulterated scrounger. However, like a good soldier, I restricted my scrounging to the quartermaster's stores, and your books were safe from me. So you are continuing your good work *après la guerre*—more power to your elbow." And this from a padre at Wellesley, Mass. : "I had the pleasure of meeting you once or twice at Toc H in Pop. I don't suppose you remember me among the thousands of fellows you met, but I was padre at one of the C.C.S.'s at Remy Siding at the time. May I wish you God's blessing on all that you are doing—'There was a man sent from God, and his name was Tubby.'" Add to these a touching pencil-note, written from a sick bed : "It was like a ray of sunshine to read of your arrival in N.Y., and I would give my soul to see you both. Do you remember me,—of the R.W.F., 3rd Div., Kentish Brigade? . . . Your two names and Talbot House, Pop., are like burning beacons in the darkness of post-war night. I am ill, pneumonia, and recently operated on (5 days ago), and so I cannot be the pilgrim to your shrine. To mix metaphors 'a wec,' would *Messieurs les Mahomet*s come to the hillock lying on his very sore back? It seems to me I would lose all if I miss you two dear war-time friends."

One August evening in 1923 a Dutchman from U.S.A. decided to fill a blank Sunday evening in London by going to see the Tower and the River in the twilight; he ended up, "accidental like," in All Hallows Porch Room among a riotous circle of boy scouts. And now he writes to Tubby from Chicago "Just got your letter and the little book, with the joyous news that you are in America—on a world trip! Marvellous!! Shall I see you in Chicago? I do hope so. For I'll never forget that curious whim of fate which brought me right into the midst of a Toc H meeting on a Sunday afternoon; and the thrill of meeting you, and those fine boys telling me about Toc H. Ever since, when I thought of Toc H, I regretted not having been in the War so that I could make appeal to "the boys" of any front in any country, in their own language, and carry the torch of this splendid organisation into every continent."

MAKING NEW FRIENDS.

And then there are the little notes, written after a meeting at which the writers had been deeply moved by the Pilgrims' first touch : "Your trip to America has surely stirred up our hearts and minds, and it is only a question of time before it bears practical fruit. I have not had such an inspirational treat in years as in meeting you and Mr. Leonard and learning of Toc H" (from *Everett, Mass.*) ; or this (from *Cambridge, Mass.*) on a half sheet : "The sheer gleefulness of your message is marshal music summoning us to a crusade for brotherhood. You are a troubadour for God."

Here is a Canadian schoolboy writing to a friend in one of our London Houses : "Oh, I say, Pat Leonard was here at the school yesterday, and he gave such a remarkable sermon, and showed us lantern slides at night, that I will never forget it. I had heard of Toc H many times before, but was never quite old enough to know what it really meant. I had never seen before such a remarkable Englishman as Pat Leonard, and I certainly think a lot of him. I felt like a new man after seeing that lecture. . . . I hope some day to be one of the brotherhood of Toc H. I would very much like to follow up Toc H as it seemed to me one of the greatest things in life—unselfishness and friendship, which are two of the great things that make a man."

And here is a new friend indeed. He writes from *Ridgefield, Conn.* : "I am writing with four objects in view :—

(1) To tell you how immensely impressed I am by the Toc H movement ; the wonderful spirit in and through it ; the tremendous significance of it, not only for England, but for the world, and the hope that hearing of it brings. I am distressed that I did not know of it when in England last spring, and now want to go again so as to attend one of your services at All Hallows and to see some of the Houses at work.

(2) To send this small token of appreciation for what you are doing and have done.

(3) To tell you that I happened to see Capt. ——, Connecticut Department, American Legion, who is going to try to go to your Mission at St. George's. . . . The Legion might be one of the groups that would prove fertile soil for the wonderful seed you are sowing.

(4) Have you formulated any notion of how the movement could be started in this country, hampered as we are by our mixture of creeds, races, agnostics, Kluxers, and our even greater lack of young ministers or even Church men ?

How I wish you and Leonard could stay in this country for months and visit most of our schools and colleges ! We need a movement like this desperately ; the whole world needs it, and if it pervaded the world it would do more for peace than anything else could. May your fondest dreams for Toc H be realized ! "

THE DEEP NOTE.

We know that the Pilgrims' programme has been desperately full, but it is clear that in the rush of "getting Toc H across" they have not failed often to strike the deepest note. Here are a few sentences out of a letter from *Wellesley, Mass.* : "I cannot tell you what a privilege, and what a pleasure it has been for my husband and me to hear some of your addresses at the Cathedral in Boston. Your meditation on the Cross last Friday was most helpful, and we hope we shall remember your teaching. Rushing, self-centred life in America, has no time for prayer . . . but be assured of our prayers for a special blessing on your great work, and may you have increased health and strength as you continue your long and arduous journey." Especially there is one letter, from *Boston*, so intimate that we hesitate to quote from it ; we do so, asking the writer's forgiveness, because it reveals to us the man and the task—Tubby, dangerously tired, succeeding where he thought he had failed : "Saturday noon I laughed with you in your fun, and went down into the depths of war's misery with you, interested beyond anything I can write, not only in your words, but in the spirit of boyishness and love

with which you are doing the Master's work. Sunday morning I was again intensely interested and moved. To-day Mr. Leonard has added to my strong impression of what service and sacrifice can mean when one is *wholly honest*. I thank you both for adding new meaning to the word. May I say a word to give you courage? for you said on Sunday that you came to us tired and discouraged. It seems to me that courage and content should walk with you, and so long as you can keep the power so to fill your fellow-men with faith, with desire to do, with the spirit of service which you feel, just so long will your lamp be continually re-filled and your message bring a return in youth to this wonderful memorial which you are helping to build. . . . This sounds as if I thought you really had lost your courage last week. I am sure you had not—it was only the physical overstrain which had made you feel that you had. I wanted you to know that, to me, you seemed filled with the strength and power which come only to those who walk with great courage along the paths they have chosen to follow. . . . Carry away with you the knowledge that here in Boston there are many who will for a long time have a new sense of the meaning of service, because of your messages on Saturday and Sunday."

Let these fragmentary sidelights end where they began—in the Upper Room. Padre Pryor Grant, writing to H.Q. early in April from New York, said: "Surely there is a Power greater than our own in this work of Tubby and Pat, and the secret is to be found in the chapels of the Marks back in England, and in the secret chambers of members scattered over the world, not to mention the Elder Brethren." Tubby himself, faced with a serious crisis in Canada, wrote home: "I spent the worst week of my life. . . . Prayers from home worked the miracle, and, after an awful strain, we got the thing pretty clear." And in his Easter message to his "dear Family of Faith" at All Hallows, he says: "Continue therefore to pray for us. We need it, and we feel its strength past telling. With sometimes seven addresses in a single day, there is less time than ever for preparedness; and one simply learns to rely on the fact of prayer coming out from home in a power that cannot be gainsaid." So the whole family of Toc H in every place has its active part in the world-tour, and where the work fails the failure will be ours.

Getting Ready in Australia.

Extract from a letter from PADRE HAYES to Tubby and Monie, Sydney, 15.3.25: "Have been up here a fortnight. It has been a pretty stiff job. Left Melbourne work in the hands of the Provisional Group, and they seem to be going on well. We are having the first meeting of N.S.W. Provisional Group next week. Then I am off to Newcastle. It is most interesting breaking new ground, but tiring. The men we want are so full of good works that they nearly all say they are too busy to come in; some have promised to do what they can, but none of them seem to have leisure.

"We have been using Scout H.Q. as a temporary office. The Young Australia League has helped tremendously. . . . Press is jolly good. Rotarians are most interested, but so busy with other things. . . . Reports from Melbourne seem to be good. Here, in the enthusiasm of meetings, it would be easy to get members, but I go slow and don't encourage hurried provisional membership. . . . Please get folk remembering us in prayer. It's very tough work, and we need that kind of help."

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The Rev. A. G. B. WEST, rector of St. Dunstan-in-the-East (which London members used for the Birthday Thanksgiving on December 12 last year) is sailing on May 2 for Australia to help Tubby in spreading Toc H "down under." Mr. West began as a curate in South Australia in 1896, and became rural dean of Melbourne before he left in 1908. He goes first to Adelaide (of which university he is a M.A.) and then to Melbourne, and expects to be away eight months.

ADVENTURE : THE "ACK ACKS"

TO many of those who "shall grow not old," the War was a great adventure, and in the same spirit great adventures are still left to the members of Toc H. It is a fine thing that this should be so, for the spirit of adventure—the spirit which led the Crusaders, Drake and his men, the voyagers of the *Mayflower*, David Livingstone and many another—has been the inheritance of our kindred since the days of chivalry. At no time more than the present has this spirit been necessary, for the drab surroundings and dour economic conditions into which modern life has drifted, are constantly sapping the youth of the nation. It is therefore fitting enough that the first society which proposes to seek affiliation to Toc H under the proposed new article of our Charter, should be named the "Arts Adventurers," and have its birth within the Toc H family.

The purpose of the Arts Adventurers is to challenge all those who have been blessed with the artist's gifts, whether of song, of literature, of painting or of drama—or indeed with any capacity for artistic expression—to place those gifts, so far as is reasonably possible, at the service of people less fortunate, in the free spirit which we know in Toc H. It proposes to take Greater London as the first field of its operations (though eventually it is hoped that the scope will be much wider) and to establish a central bureau. Concert, orchestral and dramatic parties, as well as individual amateurs and professionals, or artists who would be available to carry out, for instance, decorative work in boys' clubs and settlements or to paint scenery, will be invited to register with the Society ; and applications for the help of parties or of individuals in the "Four Arts"—whether wanted for money-raising performances, free entertainments or other forms of service—will be received. Not only will this greatly extend the field of service for many existing amateur parties, but it is believed that it will be of real use to such parties in the direction of supplying them with recruits or of helping them with the business management of their shows. The membership will not be confined to Toc H or L. W. H., but the governing body will have a Toc H majority, and through that body it is hoped to emphasize the Toc H ideal of service as an act of brotherhood.

Sir Johnston Forbes Robertson has honoured the "Ack Acks" by consenting to be the first President, and among the Vice-Presidents are Mme. Adeline Genée, Lord Shaftesbury, Sir Owen Seaman and Mr. Godfrey Tearle. The Committee includes such well-known names as those of Mr. A. A. Milne, Major "Ian Hay" Beith, and Mr. Frederick Ranalow. This experiment opens up a big vista of similar bodies of men to be mobilised round Toc H—e.g., legal luminaries for Poor Man's Lawyer work or sportsmen for the physical training and development of Play Centres. Here are new worlds to conquer and new opportunities for those of an adventurous heart.

GRANTIBUS.

NOTE : The suggested Constitution provides for a governing body of not less than 10 or more than 20 persons, the majority of whom must be members of Toc H. Association members are to pay an annual subscription of not less than 5s. ; societies, concert parties, &c., to pay an annual registration fee of 10s., individuals of 1s.

FLOWER OF THE ROAD

MANY are the voices that have sung of the Open Road, and the man is poor indeed who has not at some time known and loved it, and made his own song or whistled someone else's tune up and down hill. There is a whole library of books of the pack and staff in every country, and to many of us the glories and laughable discomforts of the Road are among the best memories of all. These things belong to the mood of Walt Whitman :—

Afoot and lighthearted I take to the open road,
Healthy and free, the world before me . . .
Henceforth I ask not good fortune . . .
Strong and content I travel the open road.

And of the vagabond R.L.S. :—

Bed in the bush with stars to see,
Bread I dip in the river—
There's the life for a man like me,
There's the life for ever . . .
Wealth I seek not, hope nor love,
Nor a friend to know me ;
All I seek, the heaven above
And the road below me.

But Walt Whitman gave up tramping before he ceased to be "strong and content," and Stevenson maintained hope and love and friends as passionately as any man. For the care-free life of the road to most of us merely suits a weekend's unconventional mood. We go in and out of our Bohemia at will. There is another life of the road which holds no such glamour ; it is neither care-free nor a mood. To thousands of men it is not even so much a life as a treadmill existence without any clear purpose ; and death, lonely and loveless, closes the last lap of the journey.

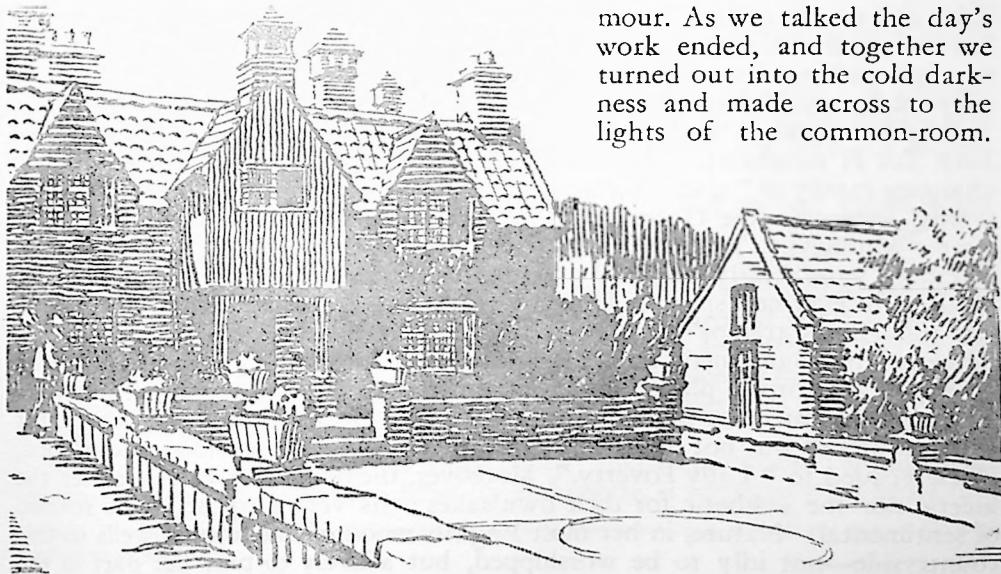
§I. THE MEN.

Two of us climbed the slope out of Dorchester and passed between the cottage gardens of Cerne Abbas, and so easily lost ourselves among the folds of the Dorset hills that dusk was coming down as we reached the white gate of Flowers Farm. A young man with an armful of books and printers' proofs was crossing the yard and bade us "Welcome, brothers!"—and so we were brought into the paved courtyard of the Home of St. Francis of Assisi, and into the hands of Brother Douglas, its Warden. Five minutes later we sat on a bench in the little refectory with enamel plate and mug, tea and a good loaf and margarine before us on the scrubbed white board. Brother Douglas in the brown habit of St. Francis faced us across the table, and at his back, seen through the leaded panes of the window, Brother de Winton passed slowly against the fading light, looked in upon us and smiled. As wayfaring men (even as desperately dilettante ones), we were from the first instant welcome—for all travellers belong to this family.

Out in the yard, where the Badminton court is ingeniously marked with lines

of brick in the concrete, it had grown too dark for play, and the queerly assorted partners were knocking off. From the market garden, wood and field, the workers had already trooped in. But across the way we found lights in the workshop, and five men still busy. One sat at a hand loom weaving a woollen scarf, and as he threw the shuttle he told us of pre-war days as a Lancashire spinner. His companion sat before the white ash, still faintly glowing, of the wood fire, and sorted out the coloured yarn. Young men, both of these, who a few months before, in their extremity of body and mind, had tramped their way to Flowers Farm to begin health and true life again. In the window corner sat another, cross-legged as a sailor on a deck—a little old man with a round, red face, fringed with a white stubble and puckered by hard weather into a perpetual smile. He still wore his woollen fisherman's cap, but he is too old for seafaring now, and plied his sailmaker's needle in making mats from twisted rushes. In the next room a printing press (a wonderful centenarian surmounted by a cast-iron eagle, and with a lever shaped like nothing but Jonah's heraldic whale), has lately been installed, and here two more brothers practised their trade—not theirs by nature, for one had but laid ink on printing rollers as a small boy, and the other was a mining engineer from the slopes of the Andes. But between them they are becoming compositor enough to set up eight pages a month, print, cut and stitch them, and publish to the world, *The Flowerette*, the journal of Flowers Farm. The first of them, a young, workless ex-service man, had been (he told us) "on the road" but a few weeks in wintry weather when he made up his mind to put an end to so intolerable a life. He was turned from the last desperate resort by hearing tell of a *home* in Dorset, and, tramping there, he

found that truth outran this rumour. As we talked the day's work ended, and together we turned out into the cold darkness and made across to the lights of the common-room.



In the friendly glow of oil lamps a brother can play his game of billiards on a worn, six-foot table, or read a book or get stuck over a word of seven letters ending in ER. And there is a piano at which our hand-loom weaver sings *The Blind Ploughman* with a rich, tenor voice to Brother Douglas' accompaniment. But best of all there is an open brick hearth on which a big log burns, and before it a veteran sofa, where several may sit and tell stories and revel in the last whiff of that fag-end so scrupulously pinched out and saved in the waistcoat pocket against this delicious leisure-hour. Moving from one to another round the circle of a score of men we heard many stories that night. This one had worked in many strange places of the earth, above and below ground, and that one had been soldier and sailor, and navvy by turns, and here was a quiet, steady workman fallen on hard days, and blessing the hour when Flowers Farm took him out of the casual miseries of "the road." And here was an old public schoolboy who had "come a cropper," and there a youngster broken in body and mind by the War, and over there a schoolmaster who is rebuilding his life. If you find in this family the proper "old timer" who speaks as a connoisseur of most casual wards, and many gaols in the country, you will also find Brother Charteris, who (having endured much in the seventy-two years he has lived) can write in *The Flowerette* that "the central spring of all endurance is the intimate fellowship with the living God."

§2. THE TASK.

The Home of St. Francis, hidden in a remote and lovely valley between Batcombe and Evershott in Dorset, must be visited to be understood—for its purpose and its very name are open to misunderstanding. It was founded in 1921 by Brother Giles, an Anglican "wandering friar," who took upon him the habit and the life of St. Francis of Assisi. He had tramped England with homeless men, and with men of every kind had been at home. His work brought him to a serious breakdown, and the home at Flowers Farm is now carried on by a very small, unpaid staff—Brother Douglas (the Warden, an Evangelical padre), an Anglican monk, a Wesleyan brother, and various visitors (among whom have been Toc H members). These not only share work, bed and board with the changing family of "tramp-brothers," but take turns on the road, and in casual wards, spreading the Gospel both by preaching it and by the example of simple kindness. The story of "the little poor man" of Assisi seems to interpret, more clearly than any other, to the modern world, the greatest Story of all. The ever-new spirit of Francis has transcended all ecclesiastical frontiers, and though the tramps' home bears his name, it does not belong to his communion. Now and again men, attracted by the idea of the religious life in so quiet and beautiful a place, apply for admission to the brotherhood, but they are never accepted for monastic retreat. This is in no sense a monastery, for Francis himself was not monk but friar—a wanderer in the wide world of men, albeit wedded to "Lady Poverty." Moreover, the home cultivates neither the ascetic nor the aesthetic for their own sakes; its very purpose is the reverse of sentimental. Nature, in her most English mood of loveliness, dwells in this countryside—not idly to be worshipped, but actively to play her part in the

redemption of broken men. She is handmaid to a Love, human and divine, which is hourly fighting a most difficult battle on the tramps' behalf. The enemy is the great D with which Damnation begins—drink, dirt, disease, destitution, despair, and all the devilries to which these help men's hands. Moreover, the weapons of Love in this place are drawn from the armoury of both worlds: they are both prayer and common sense. Flowers Farm is deliberately modelled as an experiment (tiny in scale, but true in principle) towards the solution of the problem of *Vagrancy*. This is not the place for any long discussion of a very old and baffling question. A Royal Commission on the Poor Law has examined it, and many books have been written in this country about it.* Brother Douglas himself points to the fact that " eighteen years ago the most drastic reforms were recommended by a Government Commission, but scarcely one of the suggestions for the down-and-out men's betterment has been carried out yet," and he points to the example of the Danish Poor Law system. Briefly, he believes that a series of places like St. Francis' Home should be established in every county. These must be utterly unlike the casual ward of most workhouses in spirit and intention, for they must be (as Denmark and Germany have tried to make them) " Workmen's Houses," in which men are reclaimed from vagabondage and set to hopeful tasks. To deal with a certain section of men (and no one can deny that such exist—even in society which reckons itself above the tramp!), who *could* work but persistently refuse to try, there must be " Labour Colonies," that is, in effect, places of detention in which, if a man did not work, neither should he eat.

Brother Douglas himself writes: " I divide the Brothers on the Road into three classes:—

(1) *The Brother tramping to find honest work*—and seldom finding it. Worn down step by step till body and spirit are both broken.

(2) *The half-mad Brother*. Generally the Brother over 40, who, as he marches round England, rails with a bitter hatred against society.

(3) *The criminal Brother*. Often a man with grit and character. A Brother who has gone to crime rather than starve. When he is fed back to health, and knows within himself that you do look upon him as a brother, *then give me that man. . . .*"

" Each class requires entirely different treatment, but in our casual ward system they are all treated exactly alike. What would you think of a hospital which gave the same treatment to persons suffering from broken legs, smallpox or scarlet fever?" In other words, a clear line should, above all, be drawn between the treatment of the hopeful and of the hopeless (at present there is none in English wayfaring life, save that between workhouse and prison—neither of them an alternative to be called hopeful!), and men, especially the young out-of-work, would no longer be forced, by their own misery and the example of others, from the first category down into the second.

Flowers Farm is an experiment which many " men of the world " would count foolish—and yet, spite of every difficulty and failure, it seems to yield proof that

* Begin with *Down and Out*, by Mary Higgs (Student, Christian Movement, 1924, 1s. 6d.), and go on to the books she mentions on pp. 7-8.

there is a more excellent way. The Home is harassed by the consciousness of debt, and before now the brothers have prayed for the mere bread which failed their common meal—and have received it. Its industries (for every inmate must work—or depart) are on too small a scale to be economical. Its hopes in newcomers are often disappointed ; months of care for a tramp-brother sometimes ends in his exit in a fury of ingratitude. But Love will have its way, and changes many hearts there. And if one chooses a lower ground (as some critics will certainly demand) there is sheer common sense in the scheme—the sort of sense which is concerned with improving the country's labour resources and saving rates and taxes. It points towards a new and better chapter in the dismal history of vagrancy—though no one supposes this or any other solution to be easy.

§3. THE SPIRIT.

From the little belfry on the roof the signal for supper sounded, and we all trooped into the refectory. Cocoa, bread and cheese and dried dates is honest fare, and the diners had done a day's work in keen air. As the two dozen members of this household of faith sat together at table in the low, comfortable light of a lamp, they seemed, for all their distinctions, a family indeed : brotherhood uses to make itself known in the breaking of bread. There was a rough, easy kindness from one man to another, and laughter over a joke, simple or subtle. While some talked eagerly a few sat silent, but not discontent, the brothers whom "shell-shock" or some other disaster withholds from free and easy intercourse of common life.

Supper ended, we meet once more round the fire in the common-room. Hymn books went round, and Brother Douglas struck up the tune at the piano, and afterwards led the simplest family prayers. And then (to his dismay—in the first moment of the invitation) one of the two visitors was asked to speak a word or two. Standing on the curb in front of the warm embers of the hearth, he looked round upon the half-circle of faces turned up to his, and sought his text there. And, after all, the text was plain, and the words forthcoming—for this seemed to him, in a true sense, to be a Toc H meeting. "All rank abandon, ye who enter here," is a motto of tragic literalness on "the road," where adversity brings all travellers at some time into the same ditch or verminous bed. Many classes of society were represented in that little audience, many tastes and kinds of temptation, and every Toc H member could have singled out a man among them and said, with all soberness : "There, but for the grace of God, go I." So the text was the old Toc H one of Fellowship and Service—changing the world. The name "Brother," used naturally between the inmates of Flowers Farm, betokens no mere lip-service : the spirit as well as the name of Francis—to whom all men and beasts (among which there are also men) were brethren—rules there with a great simplicity. It is the spirit of hard and joyful living, which finds grace in the most sordid experiences, humour in the grimdest extremity, and hope in those whom other men have agreed to cast out. So Fellowship needed few words—it was so plain to see in the life of this place. And Service was plain there also : might it not go out (so the speaker tried to say) to "the road" again ? Every

tramp-brother of St. Francis' Home a missionary of common kindness to men, as unfortunate as himself, wherever he should find them? Easily said, perhaps, but also not impossible of fulfilment in the spirit which Francis, following another Wayfarer, interpreted to the thief and the leper.

Hours afterwards, when good-night had long been said, the spring air blew in cold at the window and woke at least one sleeper. As he lay awake in his bare, clean "cell," he listened at first, idly, to an owl hawking in the wood, and watched Orion tilting over the dark hill. And then he saw a picture of "the road" all over England—the miseries of its traffic covered by the night, and thousands of men (and some women and children) sleeping in oblivion or waking for weariness in the casual wards and doss-houses and prisons and under the hedge-side. But he felt also the deep peace of this house where a score of outcasts had found temporary refuge for body and mind. God's hand was surely over it, while these men slept, and when, in a few hours time, they rose up and thanked Him, and went out to the day's work—some to dig the market garden and some to cut faggots at the 'wood-slide,' to weave and print and scrub and carry—they would be conscious (some of them very dimly and confusedly indeed) that His hand was there still. And when the guest (who has no business to tax readers of a printed page with his fancies of a wakeful night) turned at last to sleep, he saw "the road" changed as our generation cannot hope to see it (though we can work for the change here and now): "A highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called 'the way of holiness,' the unclean shall not pass over it; *the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein . . . the redeemed of the Lord shall walk there.*"

B. B.

NOTE: Toc H members can share in the difficult venture of Flowers Farm in several ways. (1) They can become *Associates* of this Brotherhood of St. Francis, which means that they promise: i, to pray weekly for the sanctification of the Brothers; ii, to shun all waste and needless expenditure ("this will of course vary enormously with circumstances, and is therefore a matter for each one's conscience to decide"); iii, to try to find, if possible, employment for one tramp Brother from the Home each year; iv, to subscribe 1s. 6d. a year (payable in May—so now is the time) for *The Flowerette*, and to assist in any other way, "as God has prospered them" (e.g., by sending money or old clothes or by buying products). (2) They should make a real effort to visit Flowers Farm to share the life of the Brothers for a few days or longer, to work with them and learn their problems. Any member who does this true service will find the "Toc H spirit" *in excelsis* there. As a Brother writes in *The Flowerette*:

This queer old world be good—
An' cheerfulness be food
To lots and lots o' folk.
Let's try to crack a joke;
'Twon't 'urt us—an' it's brave an' fine
To set a bit o' sun to shine
In skies o' grey.
Though us be feelin' "fed," maybe, to-day,
Us won't look down with sulky face;

'Tain't vitty us should spile the place
God put us in. Let's laff an' show
Us bain't no cowards any'ow.
Let's laff!
There be the singin' o' the thrush;
There be the psalm o' river's rush;
The very clover-scent do raise
A little dinky song o' praise.
Let's laff!

(3) They may be led to study the tragedy of the tramp by a turn on "the road" with a Brother.

Write to the Warden, Home of St. Francis, Batcombe, Dorset. (See also articles in the JOURNAL, August, 1923, and April, 1924.)

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

THE Central Council of Toc H held its annual meeting at Mark I on the afternoon of Saturday, April 18. Besides the 64 councillors who attended, there were present a certain number of padres and other "visitors" who were given leave to speak but were not entitled to vote. The Presidents sent apologies for absence, and the only Vice-President on the spot—officially known as A. PETTIFER, M.M.—presided over the opening of the meeting by right and by everyone's wish. Loud cheers endorsed Peter Monie's remark that "at this council meeting, the first held with Tubby not here, we are especially proud to have the old 'GENERAL,' who has been devoted to Toc H from its first days until now, in the chair."

RONNIE GRANT then read two cables. The first, dispatched from Dangora (W. Africa) on the previous day, ran:—

"General Secretary, Toc H. My best wishes to all assembled at Annual Council. EDWARD P., Patron."

And the second, dated from Toronto on April 16, brought TUBBY's "loving salutations to the Council," and was packed with welcome news of the situation in New York, Winnipeg, Toronto and Montreal (see page 127). Replies were sent off to the Patron, conveying our loyal greetings and wishing him "good hunting," and to Tubby and Pat as follows:—

"Central Council send loving greetings to pilgrims and Canadian brethren. Greatly cheered by last cable. God-speed to you both."

PETER MONIE commented on the cable from Canada, and added: "We have to be very careful in Toc H what we say about H.R.H., the Patron, but I am not quite sure that we do not take him too much for granted. I should like you to think of his visit to Leicester the other day and the message he gave to the House. He said: 'You fellows are out to conquer hate; my motto is *I serve*. You will never do your job unless you live up to that.' I think we should think not merely of our pilgrims, Tubby and Pat, but of another pilgrim who is living up to his motto." The whole body of Councillors then crowded, kneeling and standing, into the veringhe Chapel where Padre Fleming led their prayers. When they re-assembled in the ge, THE GEN. was found to have slipped away—to preside (no vice-presidency whatever this) over the preparations for tea downstairs. COLONEL REGGIE MAY, as Chairman of entral Executive, was unanimously voted into the chair.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER.

The Council then settled down to the main business of the meeting—the proposed amendments to the Royal Charter of Toc H. There is no need to recapitulate the amendments here, for they were fully dealt with in the March JOURNAL (pp. 79-84) by the Hon. General Secretary, and the text of them had been in the hands of councillors for a month before the meeting. Peter Monie began by noting that the Charter required every amendment to be passed by a three-fourth's majority, and made it impossible (by Article XIV) to introduce any further change at that meeting, *i.e.*, without a month's notice. In point of fact there was discussion on one amendment only—a fact which, while it was a tribute to the value of the amendments and the satisfactory drafting of them, certainly did not make for a lively meeting. Peter Monie had put an immense amount of thought and work into the preparation of the amendments, and he piloted the Council through them, backwards and forwards and sideways, with such real mastery that no one could lose sight of the actual text or the line of thought.

The one amendment on which any discussion took place, was the first on the paper, the new definition of the first object of Toc H (Article IV, i) in which the reference to "*the British Army on active service*" is now omitted. The object of Toc H, in the new wording, is to hand on "*the traditions of Fellowship and Service manifested by all ranks during the Great War*," and then is

added, for, the first time, a phrase which conveys the substance of what in Toc H we know as "The Main Resolution." The representatives of Marks I and II objected to the proposed omission, but, on a show of hands, the amendment was carried with six dissentients. The voting on all subsequent amendments was unanimous. The most interesting item, perhaps, was the additional Article XIa, giving Toc H power to sanction "Affiliated Associations," of which Grant was able to give, as a possible example, the venture described on p. 131 of this issue. The effect of the amendments as a whole is to regularise things that are actually being done in the administration of Toc H, and to provide for developments which were not foreseen when the Charter was granted in 1922.*

REDUCTION OF BRANCHES.

GRANT moved that "the Central Council declare that the Shadwell, Hertford and Montreal Branches be no longer Branches of the Association." It was pointed out that Shadwell had never gone beyond the stage of a hope, and had not claimed the Lamp allotted to it, that Hertford had handed back its Lamp to the Guard and transferred its small existing membership to Mark VII, and that Montreal's initial effort had failed. In view of Tubby's latest cable holding out hopes of a new beginning, Rev. G. LUNT (Northampton) queried the reduction of Montreal, but withdrew his objection, and the resolution reducing the three branches was carried, *nem. con.*

A NEW VICE-PRESIDENT.

CANON PARTRIDGE moved, and BARKIS seconded, that ALEC PATERSON be appointed to fill the vacancy among the Vice-Presidents. A. P., as everyone knows, has been forced by pressure of work, to resign the Chairmanship of the Central Executive, though he still represents his branch (Mark XXII) on the Council. The resolution was carried with acclamation.

ELECTION OF CENTRAL EXECUTIVE.

During the tea interval which followed, councillors filled up and handed in their voting papers for the new Central Executive which is to serve until the next Council meeting in April, 1926. By the wish of those present the votes were not counted until after the meeting, but the result may now be announced (in the order of votes received) as follows:—

London Members.

P. W. Monie (*Hon. Gen. Secretary*).
Rev. H. J. Fleming (*Advisory Padre*).
Sir R. S. May (*Mark I*).
Canon F. Partridge (*General Branch*).
H. U. Willink (*Mark III*).
David Boyle (*General Branch*).
Sir I. H. Benn (*General Branch*).
Beresford Ingram (*Brothers' House*).

Outside London.

Rev. G. F. MacLeod (*Glasgow*)
H. Shiner (*Petworth*)
C. K. Moore (*Gateshead*)
Rev. H. J. Hawkins (*Bristol*).
T. R. W. Lunt (*W. Kent*).
Rev. G. L. Williams (*Sheffield*).
H. Leigh Groves (*Windermere*).
E. Greasley (*Leicester*).

THE ACCOUNTS.

On re-assembling, the HON. GENERAL SECRETARY moved formally "that the Council receive the Annual Report and Accounts." H. SHINER ("Shi") seconded, and the motion was carried.

W. A. HURST, as Hon. Treasurer, then made the speech of the afternoon. From internal evidence in his speech and from the Registrar's genial smile, it looked as though he had been conspiring with Mus in the preparation of it! Certainly members were treated to the "strafe" which some of them have no doubt earned, and it was delivered with a geniality and a frank admixture of jam in the pill which left everyone good-tempered, but quite serious about finance.

"You have before you," he said, "the Annual Report and Accounts in the April number of

* The amendments required to be confirmed at a subsequent meeting of the Central Council. This was held on May 4, with "the Gen" again in the chair. The amendments now go forward to the Privy Council "for necessary action."

the JOURNAL, and I take it that most of you have thoroughly studied them in detail. The Report deals with many matters which should give you serious food for thought. I propose to go into some matters more closely than they are dealt with in the Report, and I should like, if I may, to express some views about finances of the branches. But before doing so I should like you all to read the appeal of Montague Ellis printed on page 20. That appeal is wholeheartedly supported by the Finance Committee, and by the Executive.

" Now there are one or two matters connected with the accounts generally which I should like to speak about. We received in subscriptions from members during 1924, a little over £2,000 out of a total income of £17,800. In the Chaplaincy Fund Account seventy-five per cent. of the total was received from one or two individuals. Now, Toc H is growing, and the position at the moment is that it is very difficult to justify the accounts as they stand, if we are called upon to do so by anyone whom we are approaching to become interested in Toc H. No business man, having regard to the publicity we have received during past years, and to the popularity of the movement, could understand why members themselves subscribe only £2,000. £2,000 out of a total of £17,800 is a very small amount indeed, and I would ask you all to take back to your branches the wish of myself as Treasurer, of the Finance Committee and of the Executive Committee, that you make an effort not only to get subscriptions from your members, but also to get those members who can afford more than the nominal subscription, to give something in the way of a free-will offering. £490 was received during the year from branches as branch contributions to Headquarters. Out of that, £250 came from one direction, and £160 was contributed by the London Houses.

" Some branches seem to think that the carrying on of the affairs of the branch do not require the careful handling of finance. Believe me, you cannot carry on a movement of this kind without it. Much as we should like to keep finance out of those things outside our business in which we take an interest, we cannot do it. You cannot carry on the finances of a branch unless you are prepared effectively to carry out ordinary elementary book-keeping. It is absolutely essential. After all, I take the view (as I do in the case of my own business) that if the staff cannot manage their own affairs they are not fitted to manage the affairs of the Corporation. By that I mean if you cannot manage the affairs of your branch (I speak of the financial affairs), you cannot hope, as elected members of the Council, to help us seriously to manage the affairs of the Corporation. I will tell you a story because it illustrates the difficulty of many branches. A lady went to a bank and saw the cashier, and said : ' I want £20.' ' I am sorry, madam, but your account is overdrawn to the extent of £10.' ' Then,' she said, " I will draw a cheque for £20 and you can keep £10.' You cannot conduct the affairs of a branch on those lines. Some of you, had it not been for Headquarters, would have overdrawn. Then, again, there is another story. A man was rung up by his bank manager. Said the manager : ' Is that you, Mr. Brown ? I should like to remind you that your account is overdrawn to the extent of £50.' ' What was the condition of it a month ago ? ' asked Mr. Brown. ' £500 in credit,' replied the manager. ' Well,' said Mr. Brown, ' I did not worry you then, did I ? ' Well, don't argue like that ! I do want to see you manage the affairs of your branches in such a way that when the Auditors examine your books at the end of the financial year, they should be in a position to carry through their audits in a few hours, without doing the clerical work for you. I ask you to have a serious talk with your committees upon that point, and to put your house in order. We don't want to interfere in the management of your branches ; we want to be spared the trouble. We want you to conduct your branch affairs in a way which will meet with the approval of Headquarters' Auditors.

" In connection with the *Auditors' report*, one branch grumbled because it had to pay a comparatively heavy fee to the auditors, and truly the fee seemed very heavy, for it was one guinea higher than the auditors' fee for the whole of the London branches. But when we

looked into the position we found that at that branch the auditors practically had to do twelve months clerical work before they could start their audit. Further, they stated that if the books were not kept more in line with the requirements of Headquarters, they would refuse next time to do the audit for *any* fee. We ought not to get into that position. It is not very satisfactory for Headquarters or for the auditors to keep on grumbling. Everyone will agree, if they see what our requirements are, that our book-keeping has been simplified down to a stage which any lad of sixteen can carry through.

"Then on the question of *Houses*. Some people seem to think that they are an asset; in some cases they are a liability. Some Groups who have no house and are anxious to have one in the future seem to forget that. They think all they have to do is to raise the money to buy the house. That does not finish it, and you can take it from me that the Finance Committee and the Executive Committee will be far more exacting in the future on the question of Houses. Before they agree to a House being started in any part of the country they will have to satisfy themselves that you have not only raised sufficient money to buy a house, but that you have accommodation for twenty or thirty hostellers, and that you will be able to finance the house without borrowing, and be able to start with a reasonable assurance that you are going to run its finances successfully. We want you to bear that in mind in the future on the question of houses. Actually, leaving out the London Houses, Manchester and Salford, the other Houses between them lost over £1,400 in catering last year. You ought to be able to budget to run a family of twenty or thirty (for that is what it means) quite easily if you apply elementary principles to the work, and get on your Committees men who understand that you cannot get a quart out of a pint pot. Some of you seem to think that when you have raised £1 you can spend 25s. There is nothing more for me to say except this—the Treasurer's job is a very difficult job (particularly under normal circumstances with Peter on one side and Tubby on the other) and I do hope you will go back, and as far as possible endeavour to put your house in order, and help us to carry on the work of Toc H."

DISCUSSION.

THE HON. GENERAL SECRETARY: "What Hurst has been talking about is branches with Houses, and he pointed out that, leaving out the London Houses and the Manchester House, we have lost £1,400. This sum is nearly enough to pay for five Padres. Initial losses are inevitable, but any branch which goes on losing money on its house is pulling down the movement as a whole. I hope people who have houses will say something upon this matter, so that we may have a common mind about it, that branches must be responsible for their own finance, and must take measures to prevent losing money."

J. B. McDougall (*Tyneside*): "May we have some information from representatives from the branches as to the heads of their maintenance account on which they have been losing? I think this matter may be divided between cost of food, cost of repairs, lighting and heating, wages, laundry, and so on. Having acquired a house, branch members should realise that there is a constant maintenance charge, and if that charge is not met I feel sure it will do no good to Toc H, but will do an infinite amount of harm. Last year I took part in supporting a motion that hostels, as such, were not essential to the movement. The first essential is a padre; a House might follow automatically. The responsibilities of a branch running a House are tremendous, and it does interfere with the work of a padre when he has to assume entire responsibility for the working of the House, for it is a question of business administration, and he has not been trained for that. If a number of Houses, under the supervision of padres, have been losing money, then I do not think it is the padres' fault. It is the system that is wrong. If one person is going to be responsible then all I can say is, he is going to have his hands full. I come from the north of England, and we have under consideration the purchasing of a house, or, at least, the opening of a House with the ultimate object of buying it and filling it with

hostellers. The idea is all right provided we have sufficient capital to meet all the losses in our Maintenance Account; but we have not got the money, and I know of very few branches which have. In my opinion a House is the very last thing a branch should wish to have, because then its responsibilities become enormous. Every member of the branch has got to put all his weight into the House and that detracts from other very useful work."

RONNIE GRANT instanced a particular House and gave details of the losses on its working. In the first place the branch seriously underestimated the number of members who would be ready to live in it as hostellers. The housekeeping, also, had been very extravagant, and there had been heavy losses on lighting and heating. "Light and heat are very big items when Houses are used regularly, and branches must be made to realise that they have got to contribute towards these expenses in the House which they use. There is absolute disregard on the part of many branches of economy of the simplest kind, and it never seems to occur to many branch members to make any contribution to the upkeep of their House beyond their five-shilling subscription. They are responsible to Toc H as a whole to see that these liabilities are borne by themselves, and do not become a charge on the general development work of the movement."

THE HON. GENERAL SECRETARY: "There is another point, and it does not affect branches with Houses only, but all branches. It is unsafe for Toc H to go on depending on the extraordinary generosity of a few people. I want you to draw the attention of your branches to Montague Ellis's letter, which is a perfectly serious one. Two-and-a-half years ago people might be excused for not putting money into Toc H. Now that we are perfectly certain that it is going to go, people are making very real sacrifices for it. Right up and down the whole family there is a feeling that the thing is going to be the big thing it is meant to be, but it will be so only in so far as we make a very real sacrifice at the present moment."

H. LEIGH-GROVES (*Windermere*): "Do I understand that we are to go back to our branches and get not only an increased subscription, but also to ask members to give something in excess of that? How does that suggestion conform to the Bylaw which limits subscriptions to one guinea?"

COL. GRANT: "There is no limit to a freewill offering."

A COUNCILLOR: "There is undoubtedly an idea that it is a sort of fixed subscription, and that it is the maximum rather than the minimum which is laid down."

THE HON. GENERAL SECRETARY: "The compulsory subscription is kept low because we do not want to keep men out who can't afford more. There are many people who do subscribe more than the nominal subscription, but there is not enough of them."

R. C. TAYLOR (*Huddersfield*): "Can we have some idea what the increased subscriptions must be from branches, so that we can go back and say it is 10 per cent or 20 per cent?"

THE HON. GENERAL SECRETARY: "I do not think we can lay down any definite rule. It must be left to the branch what they will give as a freewill offering, and not as a fixed subscription."

COL. GRANT: "There was a definite appeal made to branches that they should endeavour to raise a headquarters' contribution which would be equivalent to 10s. per head of their membership. Unfortunately, we did not get much response to that appeal, and many branches did not reply at all. The point has got to be driven home that money is needed."

H. U. WILLINK (*Mark III*): "Possibly a useful way of looking at this matter is from the point of view of the 'Duplex Freewill Offering' scheme, by which every contributor is asked, first of all, to consider what he ought to pay for what he gets; secondly, to consider what he ought to pay in order that other people may get it. Hurst has dealt with the matter of paying for what we get out of Toc H. When one considers the figures one can't help feeling that the majority of members are paying their membership subscriptions and really contenting

themselves with what they are getting, regarding Toc H as an association of people to which they belong, without sufficient regard to the matter of development, and of pushing forward in order that other people may get the same advantage. The Annual Report shows a great expansion of the movement, and if that is to go on it seems to me that it must be impressed upon members not merely that they should pay their subscriptions, but should increase that sum with a definite idea that they are giving something in order that the movement may spread, and not merely that their house or branch may not show a deficit."

PADRE MEADE (*Southampton*) : " I think we take it rather too much for granted that when a member pays his five shillings it begins and ends there. My experience in Southampton is that that is true of very few members indeed." (He instanced cases of members who were paying pounds in the year for local Toc H work) " Another point which, perhaps, affects Mark V more than any other House—the number of people we have taken in, and have been asked to take in, for whom no payment was forthcoming, is colossal. During last week alone five people asked me to take men in, all using the same phrase : ' This is obviously a case for Toc H.' You can't run a house on those lines."

E. GREASLEY (*Leicester*) : " I should like to say that we have tried the Duplex system. This year we have raised in that way £100 above the subscriptions. But we have a mortgage interest of £125 to pay, so until our mortgage is paid off we shall have to find that money, and we cannot yet hope to send much to headquarters. Once the mortgage is paid off some of this money will be available for headquarters. With regard to Grant's remarks about losses on lighting and heating, we have a scheme whereby on guest nights we do not have supper but coffee and buns, and the cost of the supper is worked out to include the cost of lighting and heating. Even so there is a surplus which goes to the General Purposes Fund, and the money is devoted to ' hospital cases ' and to pay for such things as we do not wish to bother the treasurer about."

A COUNCILLOR : " May I briefly say that at the beginning of the year we decide upon what we are going to pay and how we are going to pay it. It is surprising what people will pay in a year if they are allowed to pay it in 2d. or 3d. a week above their ordinary subscription."

THE CHAIRMAN then closed the discussion on finance, and invited the consideration of any other question. Whether because Councillors' brains were exhausted by the technicalities of the earlier business of the afternoon, or whether all those with some burning " concern " in their minds waited for someone else to begin, it is impossible to say. There was, at all events, a pause, and then the meeting broke up into that informal freedom in which friendships are renewed and much private business done.

Not a spectacular Council meeting, but one which, in time to come, may prove of very real importance in our history.

B. B.

MULTUM IN PARVO

Padre " BILLY " WILLIAMS has had a really bad spell of illness, and has been sitting in the sun at Nice, forbidden even to write a letter. Mrs. Williams had an anxious time and went with him. All members will rejoice to know that he is now fit and back again at Sheffield.

Toc H has been invited by the War Office representative of the Government Participation Committee to supply a Lamp of Maintenance for the BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION at Wembley. This year a " Court of Honour " or " Chivalry," symbolising unselfish sacrifice and service by land, sea and air is being arranged in the Government Pavilion, and one of its most impressive features is to be a great illuminated Roll of Honour for the whole Empire's Elder Brethren. In front of this it is intended that one of our Lamps shall stand, continually burning.

The Guard of the Lamp regard the invitation as a real honour to 'Toc H and as a noble use for the Lamp, and have gratefully accepted it.

¶ A LAMP OF MAINTENANCE has been given for the Altrincham Branch in memory of two brothers whose home was there. It is to be called THE MORTON AND RONALD LAMP, and the inscription will read: *In loving memory of Capt. W. MORTON JOHNSON, 11th Manchester Regiment, Montauban, 2.7.1916, and of Captain RONALD L. JOHNSON, R.F.A., near Ypres, 28.5.1917.* The original dedication of the Altrincham Lamp to STANLEY MORRIS BICKERSTETH will, at the desire of his family, be used for a new Lamp in some place with which he was connected.

¶ A Lamp of Maintenance has been offered for YORK, when the newly-formed Group earns it, by Sir FREDERICK MILNER, one of the most faithful friends of Toc H, and has been thankfully accepted by the Guard of the Lamp. When the first meeting of the Group was held, on April 1, at Government House, Sir CHARLES HARRINGTON, not only played the host and gave them a rousing start, but himself offered to give them a Lamp when the time comes. The Milner Lamp was first in the field—but we would suggest that some other group in them parts bears it in mind that "Tim" Harrington's country is the whole Northern Command.

¶ MARK VI, not to be outdone by Mark XXII's pawnshop, is moving into a (disused) pub. Many members know that the Birmingham Branch has up to now shared a House with the Birmingham Boys' and Girls' Union, an arrangement not very satisfactory to either party. The new Mark VI is said to have "a very fine lounge" and to be suitable for 19 hostellers. It has been bought on the distinct understanding (vide Hon. Treasurer's remarks reported on p. 141) that all the cost is to be borne by the Branch and not by H.Q.

¶ The PETTIFER BENEFIT FUND progresses steadily, but not fast enough. H.R.H., the Patron, has sent £10, and a number of other members and friends have contributed. The following branches and groups have sent in their collections:—Birmingham, Cambridge, Coalville, Deeside, Edinburgh, Gateshead, Grantham, Hammersmith, Huddersfield, Hull, Leicester, Northwich, Norwood, Nottingham, Oxford, Rugby, Tunbridge Wells, and a fine instalment from the L.W.H. Other branches, groups and members, please note and get busy.

¶ Special attention is drawn to the preliminary notice of the BIRTHDAY FESTIVAL which appears on the inside of the back cover of this issue. The Birthday Committee has been meeting for some time, as preparations have to be on a bigger scale than ever this year, and *longer notice* of members' intention to be present will be required.

¶ It has become the custom for many London C. of E. members to make their communion at All Hallows, Barking-by-the-Tower, on Ascension Day. This year, Tubby being absent in body but surely present with them in spirit, there is additional reason for the custom. The celebration, therefore, will be held at 7.15 a.m. on Thursday, May 21. Breakfast will be provided at 8 at the A. B. C. over the way.

¶ TUBBY has achieved one memorial at least. His name appears at the head of the list of those who served which was recently unveiled at Portsmouth Workhouse. In 1914 he was not yet an inmate of that "House" (nor yet founder of another), but just a Guardian of the Poor!

¶ "What's in a name?"—a good deal sometimes. In Toc H we don't address a fellow member as "Bro." on an envelope, or as "Comrade" when we shake hands. Lately a simple word has started up in one or two branches—the name "MATE." It suggests real hard play—like Rover Mate; and family discipline—like Ship's Mate; and desperate hard work—like Plumber's Mate. So it fills the Toc H bill. Let's be matey!

¶ The Toc H Diary was supplied this year without a pencil—and now comes the PENCIL. It is, humanly speaking, everlasting: you press the button and the machinery inside does the rest. The very neat case is made in our familiar black and orange, with "Toc H" stamped upon it. The enterprise of Coventry Branch is responsible. The price is 1s. 6d. each, and Secretaries ordering a quantity from F. L. Barnett, Bishop's Mansions, Bishop Street, Coventry, will make a small profit both for Coventry Branch and their own.

¶ SECRETARIES' LIST, April Alterations and Additions:—(a) New Groups: MENDOZA (Argentine Republic), A. E. S. Barton, Vina del Pino, Casilla 22, Mendoza; PLYMOUTH, Rev. J. T. T. Brown, 54, Emma Road, Stowhouse; TWICKENHAM, D. A. Royle, 9, Chudleigh Road; YORK, W. Brown, 35, Melbourne Street. (b) Change of Secretary: HACKNEY, H. Harrold, 181, Evering Road, Stoke Newington, N. 16; HINCKLEY, Rev. C. W. Botterill, St. Mary's House, Mount Road; KINGSTON AND SURBITON, L. Lodge, 67, Durlston Road, Kingston-on-Thames; LEICESTER, A. R. Wates, Elmfield, Stanley Road; NORTHWICH, G. G. Hough, 2, Rathbone Place, Castle Northwich; NORWOOD, W. E. Robinson, "Hensill," Panmure Road, Sydenham, S.E. 16; WEDNESFIELD, J. Birchill, 87, Nordley Hill. (c) Change of Address: BUENOS AIRES, Secretary now C/o The British Society, Lavalle 349; RUGBY, Secretary to 24, Murray Road. (d) L.W.H. Change of Secretary: BRIGHTON, Miss Hewer, 8, Eastern Terrace.



TOC H SCOUTING AND ROVER NOTES

MOST of our Rover troops and patrols have now sent in returns, and it is possible to publish some figures. There are 10 troops and 10 patrols in existence, as widely apart as Hastings, Wigan, Ipswich and Cheltenham, with a total membership of about 250; 233 Rovers are actually accounted for (three newly-formed patrols have not yet sent in their figures) and most of these are either warranted Scouters or are training to become such. This is quite good going, but there is still plenty of room for new patrols, and for new membership in the old ones. The list, at the moment, is as follows:—

Place.

Scoutmaster or Rover Mate.

BEXHILL	...	...	R. E. Meeks, 3, Woodville Road.
BIRMINGHAM	...	...	R. L. Morrison, 54, Florence Road, Acocks Green.
BRIGHTON	...	...	L. W. Adams, 33, Prestonville Road.
CHELTENHAM	...	...	E. C. Gardner, The Cabin, Prestbury, Glos.
COALVILLE	...	...	C. G. Gibson, Glencoe, Meadow Lane.
HALIFAX	...	...	J. H. Kennedy, c/o Mark XII.
HAMMERSMITH	...	...	R. S. Macfarlan, 6, Court Mansions, Ravenscourt Park, W.6.
HASTINGS	...	...	J. D. Swinden, 72, Cambridge Road.
HULL	...	...	Rev. T. Garaway, Mark X.
IPSWICH	...	...	F. E. Cooper, Richmond House, Handford Road.
LEICESTER	...	...	A. Queenborough, Brothertoft, Westfield Road.
LONDON	...	...	Rev. G. Moore, 7, Tower Hill, E.C.3.
MANCHESTER	...	...	Alan Goodfellow, Mark IV.
OXFORD	...	...	S. P. Anstie, Queen's College.
SALFORD	...	...	C. P. Hampson, Wentworth, Elesmere Park, Eccles.
SIDCUP	...	...	J. G. Hains, 5, Clifton Road.
WIGAN	...	...	A. E. Bywater, The Nunnery, Orwell Mount, nr. Wigan.

Details are still lacking of newly-formed patrols at Croydon, Leeds, and Lichfield.

* * * * *

Toc H was represented at the IMPERIAL SCOUT CONFERENCE at Bristol on April 18, when George Moore spoke and reaffirmed the aim of Toc H Rovers to provide men as scouts and instructors of scout troops. A splendid address (in which reference to the Toc H Rovers was made) was given by Dr. A. T. LAKIN, which one hopes may be published in full for the benefit of all.

George Moore's training camp at **SEAL CHART**, from July 11-19, promises to be a great success. Any Toc H Rovers will be welcome, and those who wish to come should send in their names to Alex Birkmire at H.Q. before June 14.

* * * * *

The 1st BEXHILL Toc H Rover Troop spent Easter under canvas on the West Parade, near Polegate. Commissioner Wheeler (Battersea), Cub-master Terry and Rover Woods were in charge, and among their visitors were Brig.-General Godfrey-Fausset (Deputy Camp Chief for Sussex), two Hindu ex-scouts and scouts from many places. The Bexhill Central Wolf Cubs came to the camp fire on Good Friday evening.

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COALVILLE.—The group's most important event was the Toc H Rover evening on April 7 when seven Rovers were sworn in by "Bullion," our Jobmaster, who is also District Commissioner of Boy Scouts. "Sawbones," who came over with a party of Rovers from Mark XI to grace the occasion, presided at the ceremony of "*Light*" and initiated some new members. It is with much regret that we report the death, through accident, of one of our newly-made Rovers, C. W. BEES. He has been one of the keenest members of the group since its formation, and his loss will be keenly felt both by the Rovers and by the group as a whole. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to his relatives.

NEWS FROM BRANCHES AND GROUPS

BELFAST—We have been entertained by twenty-five boys from the Malone Training School, and this was the most successful evening we ever had. In addition to a musical evening and tea, some Scoutmasters organised games, ending with "musical chairs." The sad result of a happy evening was that a few days later we had notice to quit. However, no harm was done, and we now have a fourth meeting-place, or more accurately are back in our first abode at "Ye Olde Castle." The motor-car season for the disabled is commencing, and one night this week there will be a concert at the Workhouse. The Newsboys' Club has the Lord Mayor as Patron, and we have quite a Council—if as yet no newsboys. The Rev. Fraser Hurst delighted us last Tuesday with an account of life with the Chinese Labour Corps.

PAT

BRADFORD.—Our adventure in taking and fitting up rooms last November has proved a great success. The members meet here very regularly, for the rooms are open every night except Sunday, and are a centre of our work in more ways than one. Here the different jobs are discussed with the Jobmaster, and from these Headquarters members go out to their jobs, which have been very numerous this last winter. Boys' Clubs, Scouts, distress and mental deficiency cases, children's missions, boys' classes, prison work, Sunday-school teaching have all come under our care, and now we find ourselves committed to organising a Flag Day in aid of the Hull Sailors' Orphans' Homes, and after that to taking a very active part in a big C.M.S. Exhibition. Guest-nights and meetings go very well. Our beautiful Chapel is used daily, except on Sundays; the Lamp is lit each night at 9 p.m., the Words of Remembrance said and a short service held, and periodically Holy Communion is celebrated there. The services are well-attended and are a great inspiration. We are trying hard to do Toc H work in all its phases. *Meetings*: Guest-night at 8 p.m. on the 3rd Thursday; Committee meetings

on 1st Monday in each month, at Toc H Rooms, Hallfield Chambers, Manningham Lane.

BRIGHTON.—The League of Women Helpers are busy preparing a whist drive on April 25 in aid of the fund for "Gen," and it is hoped to be able to send a donation from the Brighton Branch as a result of this effort (*see also L. W. H. notes, p. 156*). An important step has been taken by the branch by its assuming responsibility for the future conduct of the Shamrock Boys' Club and Hostel, John Street, Brighton. This Club has done splendid work for some years past in a needy district of the town, and Toc H now has an opportunity for service. It is hoped that the League of Women Helpers will be able to render very useful help in the hostel part of the Club. On April 28 we are visiting the newly-formed branch at Shoreham-by-Sea. G. A. T.

BUENOS AIRES.—Now that all at home are looking forward to the spring and hoping for something better in the way of summers than was experienced last year, we are just bearing up under heavy and hot weather, longing for relief with autumn. We were all very interested to read of the departure of Tubby and Pat, and our prayers go with them on their voyage. We were very glad to see such an excellent picture in the March JOURNAL of Tubby leaning from the carriage window with his usual cheery and confident smile. There is little of general interest to report this month in the way of branch news; our regular jobs are being well attended to and, with an ever-increasing membership, we are busy looking for other fields in which to gain more experience of our fellows and spread a little cheeriness. The question of the House is still occupying the thoughts of all, and we are ever optimistic of spotting what we want from day to day. The housing problem here just now is a little worse than it was at home at the most difficult time. Every day vessels arrive with hundreds of possible residents, and as the majority stay on in Buenos Aires, the city grows and grows, the tendency now being upwards rather than outwards—in other words we are making strides towards a perfectly good States City. It may be of general interest to state that of a total population of something like 10,000,000 people in the whole of the Argentine, some 3,000,000 are domiciled in Buenos Aires and its suburbs. The announcement at our last meeting that Lake Lake has been appointed Organising Secretary for Toc H in South America, was greeted with great cheers, as it gives title to a work he has steadily been doing since his arrival, two years ago.

Meetings : are held just at present on the first Tuesday in each month, and until further notice we sup in the Windsor Restaurant (that sounds very homely, but visitors should not expect too much) so that anyone calling this way will be heartily welcomed. PETO.

CANADA : MARK II.—March 21 was a great day, with the arrival in Toronto, first of Tubby and Pat, and then (before we had settled down with them) of Lord Byng of Vimy, the Governor-General, who took tea with us, looked over the House and addressed the branch. Lord Byng said that it was a joy to enter a Toc H House again and to meet his old comrades. "The ideal of Toc H," he said, "is all that is good in citizenship, and when you have said that—in the language of this country—you have said a whole mouthful." After tea, he lit the Forster Lamp (given by another Governor-General) which Tubby is taking with him to Australia. Both Tubby and Pat have been incessantly busy during their stay here. They have worked all day and far into the early morning, clearing the way for a great advance. It is now all over, and we are left much stronger, both in personnel and in spirit. Changes have taken place in organisation during their visit which have placed us on a good footing to be the first stepping-stone to Toc H in Eastern Canada. We were greatly helped during the visit by those two wonderful members, Burgon Bickersteth and Stuart Strathy, and we have also got able assistance from J. McClelland, of Price Waterhouse in Toronto. We are glad to have with us, as House Padre,

the Rev. G. H. Broughall, who is respected by every member of the group, and the Rev. F. J. Moore as Jobmaster. We have also been able to welcome Jimmy Parker, late of Sheffield Branch, who stayed with us on his way to Winnipeg, and Frank Biddle, of Birmingham Branch.

FRANK B. WEBB.

CARDIFF.—Although rather belated, we cannot pass without mention of the wonderful week-end we had with Padre "Jim" Hawkins, Bristol. A rugby match and an L.W.H. meeting on Saturday, two services on Sunday, and a branch meeting on Monday, sent him home a tired man, but it was an immense service to Cardiff, and one which we are not likely to forget. Having arranged for the summer to fall on May 9, we propose playing our first cricket match. This section is doing extraordinarily good propaganda work for us under the able captaincy of Charlie Werry. A flying visit from "Grantibus" has somewhat revolutionised our ideas. Urgent calls for special meetings to define our local policy, definite line of action and redoubled endeavours for the success of Toc H in Wales are the results. He has moved the whole branch to action, and we hope shortly to show some material benefit of his impressive talk to us. Our valiant efforts now seem meagre compared with what could be done. Such is the value of the visits of H.Q. representatives. Masterton, who escaped from Scotland, via London, has now assumed command of the photographic section.

Meetings : 1st Sunday in the month, Communion Services. At 4, Fitzalan Place—1st Monday Guest night; 3rd Friday, Jobmaster's night. B. W. J.

CHEL滕HAM.—For some time "Brer Rabbit couchant" has been a prominent feature of our coat of arms, but it is now proposed to substitute "hind leg of a donkey rampant," therefore much talk may be expected from Cheltenham. All our standard works continue to circulate and we are nibbling in novel directions. Recent speakers and subjects : H. M. Thomas on "The Martial Races of India"; Mr. W. Bellew on "The Alps"; Dr. Wilkins on "Service"; and H. H. Hardy, who opened a discussion on "Gambling," with devastating impartiality. George's Restaurant is now the scene of our fortnightly symposium, and on April 29 we are mingling there with the L. W. H. Grantibus is premier orator. On June 8 our star turn is the one and only Alec Paterson. Will villages and important towns (if any) in this vicinity, please note.

JUST SO.

COVENTRY.—The end of a full and eventful winter sees the branch full of plans for making itself useful in the summer months. The Director of Education for Coventry gave us a straight talk on After-care work, on March 20, and in connection with this we are represented on the After-Care Committee. Barney has taken on the local secretaryship of the British and Foreign Sailors' Society. Our membership is continuously growing, and so are our activities which are now far too many to be enumerated. The Jobmaster can have few spare moments. A corporate communion at our padre's church, St. Paul's, proved a delight to all who attended, and on Good Friday, instead of the usual meeting, a short service was held. We notice that Leicester announces the brilliant idea of sticking a box on the table for the Gen's Fund. Our box has been in action with excellent results for some weeks before Leicester told the world. The branch has still a few Toc H pencils to dispose of (*see p. 145*).

Meetings : May 1, the Padre; May 8, Rev. L. H. Marshall (of Queen's Road Baptist Church); May 15, musical evening; May 22; May 29, Business meeting. DOLLY.

EXETER.—Since our last notes in January our Boys' Club has flourished exceedingly in its new premises, and our work with ex-Service pensioners in hospital and the prison visiting continues. Regular monthly meetings have been held at which we have debated Copec reports on "Education," "The Nature of God and His purpose for the World," and "Industry and Property," while last month we welcomed Padre 'Arry 'Awke from Bristol, who gave us an

inspiring talk on "The Spiritual side of Toc H," after which we discussed the programme of the Bristol Conference being held next June. This branch has just been singled out for a great responsibility. The Juvenile Organisation Council of the City having raised just over £3,000, and spent one-third of this sum in producing a superb camping ground at Dawlish-on-the-Sea, and also an excellent headquarter building in the city for the use of juvenile organisations, recently called on Toc H to administer the invested fund of £2,000 and the camp and the building in the name of the J.O.C. After great searchings of heart the branch has taken on the job, and has provided a new honorary secretary for the J.O.C. itself, and a new chairman and secretary for each of the sub-committees needed to run the show in future. Withal the work of our own Boys' Club must not flag, as two, and possibly three, young fellows from the ranks of that club will probably in the near future be admitted branch members of Toc H. This new job makes a personal call on each branch member to answer again Tubby's Jingle "What sort of a branch would my branch be if every member were just like me." Toc H must now emerge into the local limelight and there must be no shadows cast. An innovation was introduced last week when the branch held its own first week-end camp at the J.O.C. ground on Dawlish Warren. Sixteen burly members rolled up on Saturday afternoon and worked hard till tea time filling palliasses and getting camp ready. Cricket followed, and after supper a proper Toc H sing-song and so to bed. Sunday opened fittingly with an early celebration, and after breakfast 22 of us got down to hard business drawing up the summer plans for the Boys' Club. The club will from May 18 onwards be open on Mondays at Friernhay Institute 7-9.30; on Wednesdays cricket will be played on a field kindly placed at our disposal by Padre Lake; on Saturdays a party will be taken down for a week-end camp at Dawlish Warren. Toc H members will always be welcome and a first-rate week-end can be guaranteed. Who's coming? Cricket, football and walks filled up the rest of the day, and camp broke up at 7.0 p.m. A really genuine Toc H week-end! Our best thanks are due to Young, who acted as Q.M., and Hill for his strenuous and very successful labours in the cook house. Next camp is fixed for May 16.

Meetings : On the 3rd Thursday in the month—service in St. Martin's Church at 7.15 p.m.; supper in the Y.M.C.A., off High Street, at 7.45 p.m.

GLASGOW.—On February 27 five new members were initiated, others are coming in, and we hope to be able before long to put a big, strong body of men into the field. Our work is still going ahead in the Hero Lads' Club and the Newsboys' League. Before this month is out the branch (with the able assistance of our guests) will go, each Friday evening, from the underworld of Glasgow to the highest mountain tops in Scotland (winter conditions, under canvas). The gentleman who conducted us through the underworld has left a very deep impression, and discussions arise in corners of our club-room on how to fry a "doormat" on the hot-plate of a model lodging-house. A study-circle has been started, and every Monday evening we tie ourselves in knots over the problem of "How to run a boys' club." We are willing and trying, but we are only novices at the game; youth must be taught to serve and to serve well. D.C.M.

[From Glasgow we have also received the padre's fifth *Blast against the monstrous regimen of Hate*, which circulates monthly. It shows that W. W. Ness spoke on April 10 on work for the outdoor blind, and that members interested in wireless were asked to help keep in order the wireless sets supplied to the blind; that on April 17 the chaplain of the Lodging House Mission talked on his work; and April 24 was a "Rally Night." The Jobmaster seems to be busy. We have also received a copy of *The Compass*, the National Welfare magazine, for April, to which the Glasgow padre contributes an excellent article on "What is Toc H?"—ED.]

GLOUCESTER.—Lord Plumer unveiled the memorial to the 1-5 Gloucesters on March 28, and we thoroughly appreciated his little chat with us. Toc H were invited by Col. Waller to do the stewarding, which the Jobmaster organised very efficiently and Cheltenham, who

were there in considerable force, helped us manfully. It was hoped to send a representative to the unveiling of the war memorial on April 19 at Ovillers la Boiselle (Gloucester's adopted village), but being fundless we sent a wreath only. On April 21 we had a visit from Grant, and his talk on Toc H was very timely, as we had visitors from Stroud and also the Governor of Gloucester Gaol present; the group are very grateful for the lift up. We do feel that Toc H's roots are now firmly planted in the rich loamy soil of Gloucester, and that 100 years hence the tree will have attained a considerable growth, and be a sturdy fellow alongside the Cathedral, the rugger club, and perhaps the Anti-Vaccination League!

GRIMSBY.—After various moves we have settled down to a regular place for our weekly Wednesday night meetings—Silver Street Rooms. Our chief job is visiting our friends at the infirmary (attached to the workhouse). The little we do is appreciated so much that it is a joy to go. We are arranging an entertainment for the local blind and cripples for some time in April. Feeling that it is desirable to have a little in the way of funds, we are running a dance at the town hall on April 29. We boast of an orchestra of our own which has already rendered service to deserving causes. We are fostering a new troupe of scouts; the scoutmaster has joined us, and one of us is "swotting up" to be his assistant. Although water separates us, we feel our mother house (Mark X, Hull) is very near us.

BOB.

HAROLD WOOD.—Our work in connection with the boy scout troop has had a further impetus since last month, under the guidance of Lee and Clark, who will, we hope, be scoutmaster and assistant scoutmaster respectively; 13 boys have promised to enrol, and we hope to see it develop slowly and well during the summer. Visits have been paid to Romford and Mark II, and we desire to send squads to visit all London Houses in turn. Our Pierrot troupe have been busy. A show has been given to the kiddies' convalescent home here, a visit to the Romford Infirmary is being arranged, a grand concert was given on April 20 to the village, and 250 attended. Now that the troupe is a going concern it wants to hear from various bodies which would like to make use of its services for charitable objects. Various members have undertaken the care of the grave of our late Brother Potter, which has given great pleasure to the widow.

H. F. M.

HASTINGS.—Our public meeting on April 3 was a great success, as the result of which we have roped in a lot of new blood. Our thanks to Lord Eustace Percy, Barkis, Kerswell and Frank Twine. The Bexhill Group came over in force to support us. Greetings were also brought from Lewisham by Swinden, senr. Earlier in the day Barkis spoke to the Rotarians on Toc H. On April 15 we welcomed Secker of Ilford Branch, and Gibbons, from Bradford. The last-named gave us a very interesting chat on "Prison Reform." We are stewarding the local Palestine Exhibition which is here for three weeks.

Meetings: At St. Andrews Parish Hall, Queens Road. May 13, debate; May 27 (7.30), social evening; June 9.

TRIT-WILLOW.

KENSWORTH.—Rupert Tomlin has had to resign the secretaryship owing to leaving the district, and F. E. Butterfield was elected in his stead. We have come through rather troubled waters, and were helped by Alex Birkmire's talk at our last meeting. On April 7 the Jobmaster attended a meeting of the Luton Group and learnt a good deal, and Luton has promised us a return visit and a debate. We have decided to split our branch committee up into sections, each responsible for recruiting and working in a small district. We have plenty of jobs to complete and fresh ones to start. Some of our members have been helping the Women's Institute with a minstrel troupe, and now the finer weather is in view it will be a common sight to see our boys turning out with the aged and afflicted in the Toc H bath chair in their leisure moments.

YOKEL.

LEAMINGTON.—“Getting our feet firm” pretty well sums up the Group’s work during the last three months, and membership has remained almost stationary. Members continue their regular jobs, which include visiting the local hospital and Home for Incurables (whose inmates do *not* resemble their godless name!) and St. Dunstan’s men, and work in the Boys’ Club and Sunday school. On April 30 a dance is coming off to raise funds, and our vice-president, Lieut.-Gen. Sir G. L. Kcir, has promised to look in and say a word on Toc H.

Meetings : At 9, Clarendon Place, on 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month. A. F. A.

LEICESTER.—The level of our meetings during the past month has been unusually high, for two padres and Barkis have been among our speakers. The last-named holds the record for size of audience and length of discourse, but his story was thrilling and all too short for his hearers. Of the padres, our one and only Sawbones led off by paying his annual visit (on April 1) to his own branch; in his own time-honoured phrase, “We hope he will come again.” On the following Wednesday “Robey,” of Mansfield, made some short, if inflammable, remarks which kept some of us arguing about religion until early hours. On April 15 “General Post” was unavoidably prevented from being present as announced, but the ladies came instead and very charmingly filled the gap. And on March 25—how much did Mr. Coulman withhold in his phrenological delineation of “Dowsey”? Finally, we welcome “Coal,” of the I.C.F. in our midst.

Guest-nights : Every Wednesday at 8 p.m.

GREASO.

LIVERPOOL.—March 28 was a red-letter day in the annals of the Liverpool Branch, for our new headquarters were opened then for the first time. Through the generosity of Mr. C. Sydney Jones, ex-M.P. for the West Derby Division of Liverpool, the stables at the rear of the Bishop’s Palace in Abercromby Square have been secured. The decorating and installation of electric light have all been done by members of the branch. Previous to the opening ceremony a dedication service, conducted by Padre Harrison, was held in St. Catherine’s Church, Abercromby Square. After the service, everyone went over to the new rooms, when music and song were the order of the evening. We were pleased to have the company of “Monty” and party from Manchester, also Griffiths and his fellow-members from Deeside. On April 15 a cablegram was sent to “Tubby” and “Pat” in Toronto, conveying the best wishes of the branch. On the next night, April 16, a member gave a very interesting talk on “How tunnels are dug.” April 30 is to be Rovers’ Night, when Col. A. Melly, J.P., Boy Scout Commissioner for the district, is coming to speak on Toc H Rovers. The branch has several schemes on foot, the first of which is to be a Liverpool Toc H Boys’ Society. This society will be composed of a scout troop and a boys’ club. Secondly, there is to be an entertainment for crippled children at headquarters.

V. A. P.

LONDON FEDERATION.—The Federation Committee (in which 13 branches and 16 groups are represented) at a recent meeting discussed, among other things, Toc H participation in future Armistice Day proceedings in London. Possibly their decisions may be of interest elsewhere. (1) They are asking this year that Toc H may have a separate representation at the great Cenotaph service, instead of coming in merely as a section of the British Legion party as hitherto. (2) A wreath is to be laid on the Cenotaph in the name of all the branches and groups in the Federation. (3) It is felt that an effort should be made to have Toc H sermons (with or without collections) preached at as many important churches as possible by padres who are members of Toc H. (4) A talk on Toc H to be broadcasted if possible. The Committee has also expressed its conviction that the time is ripe for a more rapid expansion of membership, in view of the vast problems facing us in London. It emphasises the need for a greater “missionary” and

"pioneer" spirit among all members in the way of tackling "the other bloke" and passing on what we know to be so good a thing.

H. B. E.

(1) *Mark I.*—We were all very sorry to lose Mathew as our warden at the end of last month. The branch gave him a farewell dinner and sing-song on March 27. We hope to hear of the beginnings of Toc H in Hong Kong soon! *Meetings*: May 20, Re-dedication of the branch, and talk from Barkis; May 27, Burry on "Music"; June 3, Business meeting.

(2) *Islington.*—Since its last appearance in the JOURNAL, the group has progressed slowly. Its members show a slight increase, and there are signs of several new contacts. Regular jobs of service continue to be the group's main theme. New jobs taken on include work for the League of Nations' Union and probation work. Meetings have not been largely attended owing to lack of spare time, but we have had a splendid joint gathering with the local Rovers, and talks by our landlord, who is a man of wide social experience. This time of the year calls to mind that the Group is now a year old. Reviewing its activities since it set out along the road of adventure, one is bound to confess that it has all been worth while. It has been hard going sometimes, but—one recalls the sound of the Last Post at the Birthday Festival, and thinks a trail a hundred times harder would be just as worth while. *Meetings*: at 81, Cottenham Road, N.W.19, on May 5, 12, 19 and 28. EGG.

(3) *Kennington.*—Since our last appearance in print we have enjoyed some really good guest-nights, notably when John Lee talked to us on "Christianity and Science," and on April 20, when Dr. Ballard spoke on the subject of "Psychology." The clubs and scouts are doing well, and the funds of our Quinn Square Club have been considerably strengthened by a highly successful dance, which was held at the Camden Church Hall on April 24. The "Tic-Tocs" are giving a performance in June for the benefit of the troop of Wellington Mission Scouts, which is being run by two of our members. Our work at the Cornwall Club is making good progress with Ted Radley as chairman of the Weekly Committee and Bruce Henderson doing his best to improve the efficiency of the orchestra. We can still find room for one or two more people from the other houses and groups on our guest-nights, so let's hear from you. *Guest-night*: Every Monday (Supper at 7). CHIFF.

(4) *Maida Vale.*—Jobs are rolling in splendidly, and the fact that we now have an assistant Jobmaster speaks for itself. The members are now so busy that we have decided to cut our meetings down to one per fortnight during the summer months. When at Wembley don't forget to look up Eric Starey who, with his wife, will be O.C., St. George's Pavilion, opposite St. George's Church in Quality Street.

Meetings: May 6, Barkis on "A hunter's paradise" at Cumberland House, Clifton Gardens, 8.30 p.m.); May 1, May 18 and June 2 at 30, Shirland Road, W.9, at 8.30 p.m. (nearest station, Warwick Avenue.) SQUEAK.

(5) *Various Fixtures*: *Mark I* and *Mark III*—every Wednesday (supper at 7). *Mark II*—every Thursday. *Mark VII*—every Thursday. May 21, L. Browne on "The Old House"; May 28, general meeting. *Mark XV*—alternate Mondays and Tuesdays. May 9, branch meeting; May 19, Beresford Ingram on "Education and how Toc H can help" (supper at 7.30); June 2, branch meeting. *Mark XXII*—last Wednesday of each month (supper 6.30, meeting 8 p.m.). *Chelsea*—varying days, 8.15 p.m., mostly at Padre Fleming's house, Royal Hospital. *Croydon*—Tuesdays at Toc H Hut, Selldon Road, S. Croydon. May 9, branch conducts about 140 War Graves Pilgrims to Ypres Salient. *Ealing*—Alternate Mondays at Y.M.C.A., Bond Street, Ealing. *Hackney*—At Wenlock Barn, 2, High Street, Homerton, N. May 22, H. M. Morris on "N.S.P.C.C." *Hammersmith*—Alternate Thursdays at Fellowship Hall (near King's Theatre). Next meeting, May 14. *Hampstead*—Alternate Wednesdays and

Fridays at Eastern Telegraph School, Shepherd's Walk, Rosslyn Hill. *Iford*—Varying days at 58, Mayfair Avenue. *Kingston and Surbiton*—Alternate Wednesdays (May 13, etc.) at 126, London Road, Kingston-on-Thames. *Norwood*—Alternate Fridays at "The Knoll," Crystal Palace Parade, S.E.19. *Sidecup*—1st and 3rd Tuesdays at Scout H.Q., Nelson Road. May 7, "general pow-wow"; May 19, talk on the Deaf and Dumb; May 28, Flag-day for the Royal Society for the Deaf and Dumb. *Stepney*—Alternate Thursdays at Haileybury House, Durham Row (station Stepney Green). *Streatham*—Tuesdays at 54, Streatham Hill. *Sydenham*—Alternate Mondays at "The Old Cedars," West Hill. *Tower Hill*—Mondays at All Hallows' Porch Room. *West Ham*—At 131, Balaam Street, Plaistow, E. May 6, group meeting; May 14, Harry Ellison. *Wimbledon*—Alternate Fridays at the Welcome Hall.

(6) "Shows": (1) *The Drama League*, as already announced, is performing Sutton Vane's "Outward Bound" at the Cripplegate Theatre, Golden Lane, E.C., at 8 p.m., on Saturday, May 16. Tickets 5s. 9d., 3s. 6d., 2s. 4d., 1s. 2d., from W. S. Harvey, at Mark II, or Miss McFie, at 50, Great Tower Street. Proceeds to Toc H. (2) The *Tic-Tacs* Concert Party has been fortunate in securing W. T. Stone and Wilton Constable; the former not only produces the show, but writes music and lyrics, and the latter not only helps to write for it, but stage-manages—a fine combination which ought soon to yield a "copyright" programme for the party. A new comedian, Cyril Capon, has also come in. May 9, at the Recreation Hall, Park Grove, Withyham, Sussex; May 12, at St. Mark's Church Hall, Gladstone Avenue, Wood Green; May 18, at Clifford House Hospital, Rochampton; May 25, at Hammersmith Town Hall, 8 p.m., in aid of Hammersmith Council of Social Service (Tickets from P. E. Curnock, 30, Avenue Gardens, Acton, W.3).

LOUGHBOROUGH.—February 23 saw our members elect their officers for the year. The group birthday-party was held on March 14. Derby, Nottingham and Cambridge supplied visiting members, and Mrs. Bowler (the Mayoress), Mr. and Mrs. Chapman (donors of the Lamp we are out to win) and Miss Chapman were also present. Lieut.-Commander Spy, R.N., gave us a most interesting half-hour on "The Navy and its kindred Services," there was a sing-song, "Chuck" lit the Lamp which Mark XI kindly lent us for the ceremony of *Light*, and "Greaso," of Leicester, conducted family prayers. The Mayor dealt with "The New Age" on March 23, "Pop" with "Rovering" on April 6, and Mr. G. P. Main spoke delightfully on "Be yourself" on April 20. On March 26 we held our first dance—a bumping success.

Meetings: At Victoria Street every Monday night at 7.45 p.m.

SPLINTERS.

LUTON.—At the first meeting of the month "Uncle" Basil Levett brought along his proposed Housing Bill, which was heavily defeated. On April 7 we had a talk on "Elocution" with astonishing illustrations, and then a Shakespeare night on which practically all our members took part in *The Merchant of Venice*. At the following meeting we christened our new piano—a royal time, during which we found quite a lot of real talent among our members. A great mission is to be held in Luton in the autumn in which we are taking part. The rural dean visited us to explain it all; he was met with some pointed questions, but satisfied the enquirers. We have been visiting the sick in hospital and hope to take our concert party to the Union.

Meetings: At Hallett's Restaurant every Tuesday evening. May 15, visit to Kensworth Branch.

MAESTEG.—It is a long time since the outer world heard from us. We are still plodding ahead and gradually increasing our funds by various means for our camp for some poor youngsters this summer. We had our second birthday party last February, and folks came to "Dance, Sing, Smoke or Solve Cross Word Puzzles." Miss McFie has given us a visit and has

placed our Toc Emmas on their feet. They have an admirable leader in Mrs. D. J. Griffiths—and Capt. D. J. has joined the males. At the moment our one regret is that we are shortly losing Billy Williams, and the dicky-bird whispers that someone in London will have to put up with him. His work for Toc H has been well rewarded—but the best reward he can have will be to hear in years to come that we are still carrying out his teachings. J. W. C.

MANCHESTER.—The branch is now trying to get into touch with the Church Lads' Brigade and the Boys' Brigade, and great developments are expected in the near future. April has been a month of losses. "Wally" Watford, the Jobmaster, a well-beloved member and one of the original group of hostellers, has gone to a job at Farnborough. There is not a Manchester member who will not feel his absence, and many of us were deeply stirred by the glowing tributes paid him at his last guest-night. The way-going of Victor Shepherd, a member of the house, was very sudden. Quite unexpectedly his doctor ordered him to Switzerland, where he is to remain for some months. All the House wish him a speedy recovery. Our hockey club, in the last match of the season, astonished even their most ardent supporters by decisively beating their opponents. The rugger men, however, have not condescended to follow their example, but in spite of their reverses they remain extraordinarily cheerful, and have already given serious thought to next winter's activities. Thanks to the prodigious amount of work put in by George Taylor, who, night after night, has laboured upon heaps of slag and cinders, it really looks as if we are to have a first-class hard court.

SCRATCH.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—In the presence of a large congregation our Lamp of Maintenance was dedicated in Newcastle Cathedral at evensong on Sunday, April 26. The Lamp was lit by Lieut.-Col. W. H. Ritson (the donor) and dedicated by Canon Newson, Vicar of Newcastle. The service was most impressive, and a very fine sermon on the origin and principles of Toc H was preached by Padre Garraway of Hull. A large number of members from Newcastle, Gateshead, South Shields, Durham and Felling were present, together with representatives of the Rotary Club, British Legion, Territorial Force and Boy Scouts.

PITMAN.

NOTTINGHAM.—The approach of summer, while curtailing some of our activities is widening others, and our summer programme, the result of much careful planning, comes into force this month. April has been a busy time, for insistent calls have come from the National Savings scheme for school canvassers (our L.W.H. members are invaluable here), and the League of Nations for stewards and helpers to relieve pressure of work. The "Tic Toc Toos," our concert party, are dealing with applications in strict rotation, and give their first big show this month for a kiddies' sanatorium in which we are interested. As forecasted last month, Toc H Rovers are now launched in Nottingham; Sawbones and Queenie of Leicester, gave them a push off. A weighty programme of meetings, ranging from an "Election Night" to a talk on "Humanity and Biology," has been got through with no lessening of numbers.

Meetings : At 3, Howard Street. After our "implosion" night on May 8, we meet on alternate Fridays only.

JACKO.

PORTSMOUTH.—Things here are going on very much as usual. We have had some very good meetings, Mr. Ben Veysey came and spoke to us on his work as chairman of the Portsmouth Prisoners' Aid Society, and Mr. W. E. Pine, sub-editor of the Portsmouth *Evening News*, gave us a very interesting address on the "Poetry of Life"; both of these are now keen members of Toc H. On Tuesday, April 7, we had a special treat by the presence at our meeting of Canon Neville Lovett, Archdeacon of Portsmouth, and Rear-Admiral B. S. Thesiger, Admiral Superintendent of Portsmouth Dockyard. The former took the chair and the latter was the speaker, his thesis being "The rise and development of the Scout movement." Padre Meade, of Mark V, was also present. We are looking forward to the visit of Barclay Baron on June 15.

We sent a message of " Bon voyage " to the Prince of Wales on his leaving Portsmouth for his tour, and were very pleased to receive a reply from him from H.M.S. *Repulse* at sea.

Meetings : At 163, Victoria Road North every Tuesday at 7.30 p.m.

CHIPS.

READING.—We regret to announce the death of Rees, an old and esteemed member, whose funeral took place on March 27. Several Toc H fellows were present at the graveside, while Padre Money assisted at the burial. Our last three meetings have taken the form of debates. On April 8 we were visited by prospective branch leader from Maidenhead. We wish him all luck in his endeavours. On the 16th seven of us motored to Oxford to be the guests of that branch, which we thank for a most enjoyable evening. We hope to return the compliment.

JADEY.

SOUTH BANK.—Peggy Lodge visited us on April 3, when we made out debut. Padre Williams, who was to have accompanied him, was unfortunately too ill to come. Despite the fact that he arrived tired and cold from an eighty-mile ride, Peggy soon got into his stride, and, like the insect in the song, " he got there just the same"—so much so that we, who before his coming resembled the " graves of a household," increased in numbers 100 per cent. Next morning, hearing of a young man of good parentage in the town who had got into trouble Peggy rushed a member of the group to the police station, saw the police chief and the magistrate, and arranged for Toc H to be represented at the hearing of the case. But for the efforts of two of our members, the Chairman of the Bench said he would have committed the man to the Assizes: as it was he got six months. We are following him up by asking the branch nearest to the prison to help him on his discharge. All religious bodies in the town were introduced to Toc H on Easter Sunday, when we appealed through their respective clergy for literature for the hospitals which we are collecting and issuing. Another job we have taken on is the care of sons of the Elder Brethren. Our budding Martin Harvey and Marshall Hall are pushing on with their jobs, and every member has his coat off.

DAVIES.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—Recently sailor members of Toc H, hailing from Glasgow and Stepney, have been encountered on their ships in the Tyne. We now have a monthly communion for Anglican members. The Rev. W. Jobson, a local Presbyterian minister, gave us an amazingly fine paper on " The spiritual factor in service." On April 27, the death anniversary of Arthur Irwin Bridge, we held a memorial service, at which his father lit the Lamp. Padre Evans gave a powerful and telling address on " We will remember them." He said only one half of their memorial was completed in monuments, the other half was still to be accomplished by service. The gospel of Toc H is being spread by some of our fellows addressing churchmen's clubs and classes, but not only with the idea of recruiting. There are prospects of getting L.W.H. started.

Meetings : Thursdays at 8, at the Missions to Seamen.

SCRIBBLER.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—A busy two months have helped much to make us known to our fellow citizens. On Sunday, March 29, our Lamp was dedicated in St. Barnabas' Church by the Rev. W. St. John Field (who gave it in memory of his son, Cecil). The impressive service opened with a slow procession of twenty-four members of the branch from the back of the church to the sanctuary, headed by the brothers Field with the Lamp and Casket, and the youngest member carrying the Banner of the Branch, and singing the hymn, *O Valiant Hearts*. Cecil Field's father received the Lamp at the altar and dedicated it, and then, with members passing the light from the Lamp to the tapers in their hands, the ceremony of Grand Light was performed. The procession re-formed and retired, singing the Birthday *Hymn of Light*, and Barkis gave a simple but impressive address on the Light. The L. W. H. afterwards provided tea. On Monday, the following evening, a public meeting for Toc H was held in the Town Hall. The president of the branch, G. T. Langridge, took the chair, and Padre Alex Birkmire, as